the transmission power value at the station transmitting data to the receiving station, thereby to maintain the required signal to noise ratio at the receiving station.

10. (Once Amended) A method according to claim [8 or claim] 9 including adjusting the data rate of message data transmitted from a first station to a second station according to the transmission power value set at the first station and the required signal to noise ratio at the second station.

11. (Once Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 8 to] claim 10 including adjusting the length of message data packets transmitted from the first station to a second station according to the transmission power value set at the first station and the required signal to noise ratio at the second station.

12. (Once Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 1 to] claim 11 wherein each station monitors the transmission of other stations to obtain background noise/interference data therefrom, so that a first station monitoring a transmission from a second station within range of the first station to a third station out of range of the first station can obtain background noise/interference data relating to the third station.

13. (Once Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 1 to] claim 12 including selecting, opportunistically, a station for transmission of data thereto according to the path quality and/or background noise/interference data associated therewith.

17. (Once Amended) Communication apparatus according to [claim 15 or] claim 16 wherein the processor means is arranged to extract path quality data from received transmissions, to compare the path quality data with the measured power of received transmissions, and to calculate a path quality correction factor from the difference therebetween, the path quality correction factor being utilized by the control means to adjust the output power of the transmitter.

20. (Once Amended) Communication apparatus according to [any one of claims 14 to] claim 19 wherein the processor means is arranged to monitor path quality data in transmission from other stations, so that a first station monitoring a transmission from a second station within range of the first station to a third station out of the range of the first station can obtain path quality data relating to the third station.

21. (Once Amended) Communication apparatus according to [any one of claims 18 to] claim 20 wherein the processor means is arranged to store path quality data for each of a plurality of stations and to set an initial transmission power value when initiating communication with any one of said plurality of stations according to the respective stored path quality data.

22. (Once Amended) Communication apparatus according to [any one of claims 14 to] claim 20 wherein the processor means is arranged to monitor background noise/interference data in transmissions from other stations, so that a first station monitoring a transmission from a second station within range of the first station to a third station out of range of the first station can obtain background noise/interference data relating to the third station.

23. (Once Amended) Communication apparatus according to [any one of claims 14 to] claim 22 wherein the processor means is adapted to select, opportunistically, another station for transmission of data thereto according to the path quality and/or background noise/interference data associated therewith. - -

***REMARKS***

The application is presented for examination based on the specification pages 1-37 from the PCT international application as filed, claims 1-23 from the International Preliminary Examination report and including the foregong amendments, as well as the 18 sheets of figures.